

6893, The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, into law shortly. I am proud to have voted for this bill, sponsored by my good friend Rep. JIM McDERMOTT, and I look forward to its implementation and the benefits it will bring to young people struggling to overcome their difficult circumstances.

Recent research indicates that across the Nation more than 24,000 youth "age-out" of foster care each year. This figure represents an increase of 41 percent since 1998 in the number of young people who leave foster care without having found a permanent connection to a family or stable adult.

Thus, youth who turn 18 and are discharged from the system find themselves on their own, without the support that most adolescents rely upon as they transition from childhood to independent adulthood. Without that support, former foster youth are known to struggle. One in four will be incarcerated within a year of leaving the child welfare system. One in five will experience homelessness in that same year. Rates of mental health diagnoses are higher than in the general population, yet access to treatment and counseling is sporadic. Additionally, these youth have extremely low rates of educational attainment and thus are frequently unable to secure and sustain employment sufficient to meet their basic needs.

The same research that documents these overwhelming challenges, however, also shows the benefits of extending foster care to age 21. A large, ongoing, multi-State study conducted by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, indicates that when youth are allowed to remain in care beyond their 18th birthday, they fare significantly better than youth who cannot. Some States voluntarily extend the option to young adults who have been unable to secure a permanent connection, and when Chapin Hall compares their later life circumstances to those of youth who were turned out at 18, found that they achieved significantly higher levels of education, earned higher wages, waited longer to become pregnant and bear children, and they took increased advantage of available services.

The study's authors state clearly that their findings indicate that extending foster care services can support youth in developing into healthy, educated, productive, and independent citizens. By giving all States the option of continuing foster care services to age 21, the legislation Congress recently approved would allow States to continue vital support for their disconnected adolescent foster youth during a crucial life transition, increasing the likelihood that these youth will experience better ultimate outcomes.

As a long-time member and now chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, I have dedicated many years to the effort of improving the lives of children in foster care and have had the opportunity to work with many different individuals and organizations along the way. Today I wanted to highlight one group in particular for its efforts as it relates directly to the bill we just approved.

The John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes has played an invaluable role in identifying potential policy solutions to the documented difficulties of former foster youth. Under the leadership of California State Senator John Burton (retired), the foundation plays a critical role at the State and national levels

by bringing legislative attention to the needs of some of the Nation's most vulnerable young people. The foundation sponsors and advocates for legislation aimed at providing necessary ongoing support to youth who, by definition, the government has taken on the responsibility of parenting.

Through their advocacy to members of Congress and effective efforts to organize stakeholders in California, the John Burton Foundation has played an important role in ensuring that the extension of Federal funding to age 21 is included in this legislation. The evidence is solid and the conclusion is clear: Extending foster care services to age 21 to young adults raised in the child welfare system will support them in their effort to become healthy, independently functioning adults, and thereby honor the commitment made to them by the State and Federal governments.

Madam Speaker, I deeply appreciate the foundation's efforts and I deeply appreciate the work that my colleague, Rep. McDERMOTT, carried out in passing this legislation. Congress owes a great deal to children in foster care, and this legislation will be a very important step in that direction.

#### SEATBELTS FOR INCREASED BUS SAFETY

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, most of us are aware of the bus accidents that have been occurring around the country. Two years ago there was a fatal bus accident involving the Westbrook High School girls' soccer team in Beaumont, Texas. Just this year, there was an accident in Sherman, Texas, which involved several Vietnamese community members. Similar incidents occurred in Liberty, Missouri, Arlington, Virginia, New York City, and New Orleans, to name a few.

These tragic bus accidents demonstrate that school bus safety reform is an urgent issue. While school buses are among the safest mode of transportation, these re-occurring accidents are unacceptable. School buses need to be safer.

The widespread bus crashes have sparked a comeback in the idea of seatbelts in buses. Seatbelts raise the issue of whether they would increase bus safety.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas safety belt use has topped 90 percent, this being the third year in a row. The majority of people in Texas are wearing their seatbelts in cars and trucks. But few to no passengers are wearing their seatbelts in school buses. Currently, there is no Federal mandate on seatbelts in buses.

Every State, except New Hampshire, requires by law that car and truck drivers and passengers wear seatbelts. This is because seatbelts work—they increase a passenger's chance of survival in a crash. In short, seatbelts save lives.

If laws require passengers of cars and trucks to wear seatbelts, why are there no requirements for buses to even include seatbelts? In many States there are variations of "Click it or Ticket" policies that threaten motorists who don't wear seatbelts, yet no such

laws apply to the buses that carry our children and community members on a daily basis.

Certainly, buses are made very different from cars and trucks. For one, buses can carry many more passengers than any car. Some of these differences might lead one to believe that there should not be a mandate on seatbelts in buses. These differences have not stopped bus drivers from being required to wear seatbelts. So why not for school bus passengers as well?

Some claim that seatbelts may not be properly worn by passengers or cause injury. If anything, it shows that seatbelts should be made better. However, to completely disregard seatbelts as a safety precaution is absurd.

The answer appears to be that of common sense. While seatbelts are in no way a quick fix and there are many questions surrounding seatbelts in buses, they should be looked into as one of the very many necessary measures taken to ensure school bus safety.

MR. JOHN DIEDERICH

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincerity that I take this time to honor one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished business and community leaders, Mr. John Diederich of Crown Point, Indiana. On Thursday, September 25, 2008, John will be honored by the Northwest Indiana Forum for his many years of service as a dedicated executive and his many contributions to the Northwest Indiana community. This extraordinary event will be taking place at Gamba's Ristorante in Merrillville, Indiana.

John Diederich has been a fixture in the banking industry in Northwest Indiana for the past thirty-four years. Following his collegiate studies, where he earned a degree in Accounting from Calumet College of Saint Joseph in Whiting, Indiana, and a degree in Finance from Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, John entered the banking industry as a controller at Commercial Bank in Crown Point, Indiana. From there, he went on to serve as a commercial lender for Gainer Bank before being named its Division Manager for Commercial Lending in 1989. Mr. Diederich remained in this position until 1996, when he was named Manager of Private Banking and Investments for First Chicago NBD. Following a brief stint as Manager of Commercial Lending with Bank One, he was named Regional President of Bank One in 2000, and remained in that role with JPMorgan for the last eight years.

Throughout the years, John Diederich has become known just as much for his contributions to his community as to the banking industry. One of the most giving and selfless individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing, John has dedicated much of his time focusing on the development of the economy in Northwest Indiana, most notably as a past chairman of the Managing Board of Directors for the Northwest Indiana Forum and as a founding member and past president of the Regional Development Company. John has also volunteered much of his free time working with organizations that help children in his

community. He serves or has served in various capacities on the boards for numerous organizations, including: the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Indiana, where he is a past chairman of the board, the Southlake YMCA, for which he is a past president, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Trade Winds, the Crown Point Community Foundation, the Diocese of Gary, and the Crisis Center in Gary, Indiana, where he currently serves as its chairman of the board.

While John has always been committed to his work and has remained active in the Northwest Indiana community, his greatest enjoyment is the time spent with his beautiful family. He and his wife, Louise, have one daughter, Lisa, a graduate of Butler University, and one son, Brian, who currently attends the University of Dayton.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. John Diederich as he is honored for his lifetime of service and dedication to the Northwest Indiana community. His years of service have touched and improved the lives of all whom he has served. His unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF HILLSBOROUGH MAYOR CATHERINE "KITTY" MULLOOLY

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this fall, one of California's most dedicated public servants will retire as Mayor of the Town of Hillsborough in the 12th Congressional District. The Honorable Catherine Mullooly, "Kitty" to all who know her, has been a beacon of light and volunteer extraordinaire since relocating from her native Wisconsin to our beloved Bay Area some forty-three years ago.

One year after graduating from the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater in 1964, Kitty came west with her new husband Doctor Thomas Mullooly, DDS, where she taught at San Francisco's St. Stephen's Elementary School prior to giving birth to her first child, Michelle. Two years later, their family was joined by son, Michael, and shortly thereafter the Mulloolys moved to Hillsborough where they have been ever since.

Kitty and Tom have brought smiles to peninsula residents for more than thirty years, through both dental healthcare and civic involvement. In fact, it is difficult to say "Mullooly" without smiling.

Kitty Mullooly's charitable work was recognized by her adopted hometown with Hillsborough's Community Care Award in 1985. She was further honored as 1989's Hillsborough Citizen of the Year. Three years later, Kitty was elected to the City Council, where she quickly impressed her peers with her hard-work and was re-elected for three subsequent terms.

During Ms. Mullooly's tenure in city government, she has been tapped to serve two terms as Mayor, including her current stint which began in 2006 and ends at the end of this year, when she will step down from her official

role in city leadership. But Madam Speaker, I know Mayor Mullooly, and I can assure you that she will not stray far from Town Hall. In fact, she lives just two doors away and I have a strong suspicion she will continue listening to her scanner so she can race with the firefighters she has helped her whole career to any call that goes out.

Kitty's commitment to our community has encompassed all aspects of daily life. She volunteered her skills for the Early Childhood Education/School Improvement Program, served on the Hillsborough Elementary School district Board of Trustees and the town's Recreation Commission and was the Chairwoman of our community's premiere charity event, the Hillsborough Concours d'Elegance. Regionally, Mayor Mullooly represents our community on the San Francisco Airport Community Roundtable, the San Mateo Area Emergency Services Council, and is a Board Member of Leadership San Mateo.

Now that Michelle and Michael are grown and married, Kitty and Tom have turned their attention to their grandchildren, Ashley and Christopher. Like your own, Madam Speaker, Kitty's grandchildren are fortunate to have a grandmother that will serve as an inspiration and role model for the rest of their lives.

Kitty is many things to me—my Mayor, my constituent and my friend. Any day spent with her is a good day. I have expressed my appreciation and admiration in private many times. A highlight of my short time in Congress is being able to do so in this most public of forums.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. The following are the Department of Defense and Military Construction projects I have requested that have received funding approval:

Project Name: N-STEP Enabled Manufacturing Cell for Future Combat Systems.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RDTE, A.

Requesting Entity: Joint Systems Manufacturing Center/General Dynamics; 1161 Buckeye Road, Lima, Ohio 45804.

Project Description and Amount: Joint Systems Manufacturing Center-Lima (JSMC) has developed, designed, installed and implemented an N-STEP Enabled Reconfigurable Manufacturing Cell and has completed performance demonstration phases using automatic processes. To make the core equipment production ready for FCS, specific weld process development using the Friction Appurtenance Welder, FAW, must be completed. This funding request will provide for the necessary technical resources required to develop the weld machine parameters/specifications for support of vehicle production activities. \$2,400,000.

Project Name: Electronic Motion Actuation Systems.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RDTE, N.

Requesting Entity: Moog; FloTork Facility, 1701 North Main Street, P.O. Box 68, Orrville, Ohio 44667.

Project Description and Amount: The purpose of the project is to develop shipboard-qualified prototype electric actuators and demonstrate their satisfactory performance in shipboard applications. Successful completion of the technology will reduce shipboard personnel and reduce repair and maintenance costs. The Department of the Navy has repeatedly stated its desire for an all-electric ship. The target ship for this concept is the DDX which is due to hit the water in 2010. Environmental hazards associated with hydraulic systems will also be eliminated by moving to an electric actuator. \$800,000.

Project Name: Barracks, Camp Perry Training Site, Port Clinton, Ohio.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Department of Defense, Army National Guard.

Military Facility Address: Ohio National Guard, Camp Perry Training Site, 1000 Lawrence Road, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452.

Project Description and Amount: Provide \$2 million in P-341, unspecified minor military construction, funds pursuant to Title 10 U.S. Code 2805, to construct a new 80-bed barracks at the Ohio National Guard's Camp Perry Training Site, Port Clinton, OH. The request will increase the readiness of our servicemen and women in the Ohio National Guard and help them better prepare for the challenges they face both at home and abroad. \$2,000,000.

IN HONOR OF DR. SCOTT KENNEDY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I am proud today to rise to pay tribute to Dr. Scott Kennedy, a former mayor of Santa Cruz, CA. Dr. Kennedy has been named the 2008 recipient of the El-Hibri Charitable Peace Education Prize—which rightly recognizes his tireless, selfless and fearless promotion of peace and social justice in the Middle East and around the world.

It is with great pleasure that I call attention to Dr. Scott Kennedy's work to bring peace to the world over the course of his lifetime. He has been a Peace Educator for 40 years and was instrumental in pioneering educational delegations to conflict zones, now a widely practiced form of peace education. Scott has personally led more than three dozen delegations to the Middle East since 1979. He also helped establish Witness for Peace, which brought thousands of U.S. citizens to Nicaragua on short educational delegations.

Scott Kennedy co-founded the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz, CA, which is one of the most active community-based peace education centers in the Nation. The Center has been host to world-renowned international speakers, workshops, and programs focusing on the need for peaceful and just resolution of conflicts both locally and